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## Court ruling may give county \$200,000

By staff and wire reports

School districts and local governments throughout Missouri won a major victory Friday when the state Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a tax that generates \$100 million for local coffers.

The court ruled that revenue from the controversial merchants and manufacturers tax should go to local municipalities instead of the merchants and businessmen who pay the tax.

But \$203,850 in protested Boone County taxes cannot yet be turned over to the county, school districts and other municipalities, Boone County officials

said. Each company still has the option of filing suit to recover its protested taxes.

The merchants and manufacturer's tax is a special tax assessed on the inventory of businesses.

Two companies, Metal Form Corp. and Mesker-Clark Inc., both of St. Louis, originally protested the tax as being discriminatory to large businesses, and based on a tax classification not proscribed by the state's constitution.

But the Supreme Court ruled the tax statutes do not violate the constitution's limit on tax classifications. Justice James Finch Jr. said they "sim-

ply spell out a process to be utilized in assessing certain property."

Finch also said the law exempting smaller businesses with inventories less than \$1,000 from the tax was not unfair because these companies still are subject to personal property taxes.

Friday's decision reversed a St. Louis Circuit Court ruling last June that the merchants tax was unconstitutional.

When St. Louis Judge Orville Richardson struck down the tax last year, he also said it was unconstitutional because it was based on a business' largest inventory at any time during the first three months of the year. All other

personal property taxes are based on the value of property as of Jan. 1.

After Richardson's decision, the Missouri legislature passed a bill in August to have the merchants tax assessed on a business' property on Jan. 1. The high court said the law, signed by Teasdale, effectively resolved questions about when the tax was determined.

The decision removes nearly all of the legal grounds that some merchants cited when they paid \$43 million in property taxes under protest.

Bill Wasson, deputy commissioner of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, said the de-

cision will release about \$24 million to school districts alone.

Wasson said \$16 million was protested in St. Louis County.

Boone County Tax Collector Raymond Easley said he is not yet free to release the money to the county, school districts and other jurisdictions.

Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Joe Moseley said the court's decision does not revoke each separate protest. The 78 companies in Boone County still can file suit or let their protests lapse when the 90-day filing period ends, about the last week in March.

Shulamith Simon, a St. Louis attorney representing Kingscourt and

Worth's, said she probably would withdraw the suits she filed for the two local clothing stores. "It looks like I don't have much ground left," she said.

Moseley said he would ask the Circuit Court to dismiss the suits filed so far, and Ed Carlton, a local attorney, said he would advise his client to withdraw its protest.

Legislators who had expected the court to hedge and declare part of the law unconstitutional earlier introduced two bills in the General Assembly that would offset the loss in county revenue by increased state aid.

## Insight Climate changes could greatly alter world's farm maps

By Walter Sullivan  
© New York Times

NEW YORK — What will the climate of the future be like? Warmer? Colder? Few questions are more important to those who must plan future energy and agricultural policy.

Yet redoubled efforts to make even moderately reliable forecasts have brought home, as never before, the complexity of the factors affecting climate.

Those who propose that the world will grow warmer found recent support in an analysis of climate changes to be expected from heavy burning of fossil fuels — notably coal. The study was done for the White House by a panel of experts convened by the National Academy of Sciences.

It concluded that within a half-century such combustion could double the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and thereby warm it an average of about 6 degrees F (about 3 C) — enough to cause major climate changes that conceivably could turn farmland to desert or make deserts fertile.

Carbon dioxide, like the glass of a greenhouse, allows visible sunlight to pass through, heating the earth, but absorbs infrared energy radiated from the earth as a consequence of the heating. It thus traps energy that normally would escape into space.

The latest report makes a persuasive case that because of this "greenhouse effect" the continuing rise in fuel burning, with the projected emphasis on coal and its liquid and gaseous derivatives, could have disastrous effects on agriculture. It implies that alternate sources such as solar power (if it can be made practical) and nuclear energy (if it can be made safe) may have to receive greater emphasis.

The projected warming presumably would benefit some regions of the world and damage others. Any change, however, is likely to disrupt food production in many areas where agriculture is highly vulnerable to drought and other vagaries of climate.

One possible effect of the warming, which would be most intense at high latitudes, is a spread of deserts from the Southwest into the Midwestern grain belt. Canada would become more hospitable to corn and wheat, but the soils left there by the ice ages are relatively poor.

Dr. W. Lawrence Gates, climatologist at Oregon State University, has proposed that a warming trend could melt the ice cover of the Arctic Ocean. This, he points out, could result in an "environmental catastrophe" by changing precipitation patterns responsible for much of the world's food production.

Members of the panel avoided grappling with the possibility, raised by others, that natural trends might counter the predicted warming. It has been proposed, for example, that a warming caused by atmospheric carbon dioxide could be neutralized by a cooling due to long-range diminished solar activity. The sun radiates slightly more heat when it is most active.

Recently, Ernest Agee, professor of geosciences at Purdue University, suggested to a conference on climate change that a 90-year cycle in sunspot activity is entering a decline that already has cooled the climate over the past 40 years.

The view that sunspots are an index of energy radiated by the sun has gained considerable support in recent years. Such spots (associated with highly energetic eruptions) seem to have been almost totally absent on the sun in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.



### USA! USA!

Jubilant American hockey players celebrate their stunning 4-3 Olympic victory over the Soviet Union, while somber Soviet officials look on. Story on Page 6.

## Armed Moslems protest in Kabul

From our wire services

Thousands of Moslems waving guns and the green banners of Islam surged through Kabul Friday in a dramatic protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The struggling Moscow-backed regime declared martial law and arrested dozens of "foreign spies," including an American, reports from the Afghan capital said.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev offered to pull out Soviet invasion forces from Afghanistan but said United States "interference" in Afghan affairs is delaying any withdrawal.

The State Department offered little immediate reaction. Department spokesman Tom Reston said administration officials are studying the Brezhnev statement.

In Kabul, MiG-21 fighters and Mi-24 helicopter gunships swooped low over the city's rooftops, where Afghans defied a nighttime curfew to chant "Death to the Soviets!" and "Allah o Akbar!" (God is great).

Soviet armored personnel carriers filled with reinforcements rumbled into the capital to protect vital positions.

Radio Kabul, in a broadcast monitored in Pakistan, announced the arrest of "foreign spies, saboteurs and

mercenaries" seized from their rooms in three hotels in the capital.

The Soviet news agency Tass said one of those arrested was an American, identified as Robert Lee, who, it said, was "known for his links with the Central Intelligence Agency." It said Lee was charged with instigating "anti-government acts" and would be tried before a "revolutionary tribunal."

The State Department had no immediate confirmation of the arrest.

Kabul Radio said "large numbers" of demonstrators also were arrested along with the "foreign spies and agents who possess American and Chinese arms and currencies."

It ordered the demonstrators surging through the streets and congregating on the rooftops to "turn in their arms" to police, an indication that at least some of them were armed.

The growing popular unrest — encouraged by the success of the general strike despite government efforts to crush it — shaped up as the greatest challenge yet to Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan.

"Large gatherings of Afghans took place in three parts of the city, and three civilians were killed," the reports reaching New Delhi said. Details of the killing was unclear, but the report said the three might have been caught in a crossfire.

## Afghan attacks Soviet invasion

UNITED NATIONS (UPI) — An official representative of the Afghan government stunned a meeting of non-aligned nations Friday when he denounced the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and resigned his post.

Abdul-Rahman Ghafoorzai, a former member of Afghanistan's U.N. mission, also asked the 96-member group to send an urgent appeal to Kabul for the safety of his family.

Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Ezmat Meguid immediately supported the request, and the meeting unanimously approved the proposal. Ambassador Raoul Roa of Cuba, an ally of the Soviet Union, had no alternative but to send the cable.

Ghafoorzai, who left a wife and four children in Kabul, said he decided some time ago to condemn the Soviets' December invasion of Afghanistan, but

had to wait for an "appropriate international gathering."

"I ask the non-aligned nations to take effective action against the invasion of my beloved country, which was trampled under the heels of the Red Army," he told a hastily summoned news conference.

Ghafoorzai said he had not decided whether he will ask for political asylum in the United States.

Ghafoorzai said he thought President Carter's decision to call for a boycott of this summer's Olympic Games in Moscow was "a step in the right direction."

"It is the duty of the international community to support a just cause," he said. "It must be supported by everyone who believes in justice and liberty."

### In town today

10 a.m. State high school wrestling tournament, Hearn's Center.

2 p.m. Men's track, Missouri Intercollegiate Track Meet preliminaries, Hearn's Fieldhouse.

7 p.m. Men's track, Missouri Intercollegiate Track Meet finals, Hearn's Fieldhouse.

7:30 p.m. Men's basketball, Central Bible College vs. Columbia College, New Haven Elementary School gym.

7:30 p.m. "Suppressed Desires," Studio Theatre, University's Gentry Hall. Admission 50 cents.

8 p.m. "Bye, Bye Birdie," Stephens College Assembly Hall. Admission \$6 or \$5.

8:15 p.m. Nikolais Dance Theatre, Jesse Auditorium. Admission \$6 for general public, \$5 for students.

Movie listings on Pages 12, 13.

## Bleak economy now faces 18% inflation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The 1980s began with the biggest increase in consumer prices in 6½ years and the fastest gasoline price rise in history, the government reported Friday.

The Labor Department said prices paid by Americans at their local retailers soared by 1.4 percent during January with all categories except food registering steep gains. Gasoline prices, zooming at the fastest rate ever recorded, were 60 percent higher than a year earlier.

When compounded, the January price rise worked out to a startling 18.2 percent annual rate — far above President Carter's inflation forecast only three weeks ago of 10.4 percent.

The overall increase was the largest since August 1973, when the Nixon administration removed price controls on food.

The 1979 inflation rate was 13.3 percent, the worst in 33 years.

Banks responded quickly to the inflation figures, with Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. jumping its prime lending rate to 16½ percent and other major banks going to 16¼ percent.

The rates were unprecedented and gave consumers a clear signal that their borrowing would be more expensive and harder to obtain as the higher rates filter through the financial system.

"This is just one step in a long march for in-

terest rates," said Leon B. Gould, economist for Commercial Credit Corp. of Baltimore. "We're not close to the top in interest rates by any stretch of the imagination."

More optimistic was analyst Elliott Platt of the Donaldson Luftin & Jemette brokerage, who predicted the prime rate spiral might stop around 17 percent. Still, he cautioned, "We're so out of bounds relative to history it's really hard to tell what will happen."

That buttressed the declaration of a leading economist Thursday that inflation has reached a state of emergency which only painfully tight credit and budget cuts could relieve. The speech by Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers sent trembles through Wall Street.

The surge in consumer prices and the prime rate hike sent the New York stock market plunging in early trading with declines leading advances 897 to 178.

Business loan demand also has been strong recently, allowing banks to raise their interest rates without fear of losing business.

Banks fell over themselves in pushing up the prime Friday. Citibank of New York led off with an unusual half-point jump to 16¼ percent, putting the rate a full percentage point higher than Tuesday's starting level of 15¼ percent.

The volatility of the interest rate situation was

illustrated by Union Bank of Los Angeles which made a rare double-jump in one day, first to 16¼ percent and then to 16½ percent.

The administration continued to rule out mandatory wage-price controls. House Speaker Thomas O'Neill said Congress would make no move to impose controls unless Carter specifically requested them.

Shortly after the dismal government inflation report was released, Charles Schultz, chairman of Carter's Council of Economic Advisers, told a Miami audience the most "urgent task" now facing the government is "to prevent the inflationary surge of oil prices from spilling over into the rest of the economy."

Robert Russell, the executive director of the president's Council on Wage and Price Stability told Congress' Joint Economic Committee, "I fear it (the inflation rate) is consistent with the ominous trend that has taken place over the past year."

He said inflation has yet to be "built into the industrial wage and price structure ... but the underlying rate of inflation has started to explode."

The Labor Department said its price index for (See TRANSPORTATION, Page 14)

